

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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Restatement OF P. T. A. WARTIME ACTIVITIES

THE War Emergency Committee of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, meeting in Chicago October 23 and 24 to review and restate the wartime aims and objectives of the National Congress program, again recognized the particular responsibility of the P.T.A. in the task of insuring a strong nation through the upbuilding of a fearless, unselfish, and valiant spirit—a spirit which, it was pointed out, is the essence of high morale.

During the past year local associations the country over have played a most significant part in converting an America at peace into an America at war. Co-operation with official and professional agencies and with like-minded community service groups, as well as integration and coordination of many varied activities, has been outstandingly good. There is a well-established and universal spirit of unity and good will among parent-teacher workers everywhere. Nothing has been spared to make supremely effective the endeavors of parent-teacher groups to help win the war. This, the committee fully agreed, is a record to be proud of. Now, however, with many wartime activities established and in active motion, it was emphasized that we must reinforce and extend our present programs and lay sound foundations that will help to build a world characterized by freedom and justice and lasting peace for all mankind.

• Points of Emphasis

1. All available facilities designed to insure the physical and mental health of the nation should be utilized to the utmost. Since good health and adequate nutrition go hand in hand, every possible means should be utilized to give the people sound information about nutrition.

2. The base of financial support of our schools should be broadened by Federal aid to states on a basis of need, that educational gains already made may be safely maintained and further advances made possible.

3. Protective measures, such as adequate adoption procedures, day care for children, vigorous safety projects, and constructive recreational plans, should be emphasized.

4. School facilities should be used not only for school education but for community service and recreation for all age groups.

5. Volunteer service, which has always been the heart of the parent-teacher program, should be stimulated and encouraged, not only for the accomplishment of the immediate task in hand but because such service is the hope of a continuing civilization. This is the type of service that seeks constantly a wider sphere of usefulness; it is in harmony with democratic ideals, and it accepts the responsibility attendant on those ideals. Its extension to the outermost limits of the civilized world is a prerequisite of true and lasting peace among men.

• War Handbook

IN VIEW of these and other considerations the War Emergency Committee made plans to implement its conclusions by preparing a handbook on wartime activities. This publication will be entitled *War Handbook: What the P.T.A. Can Do to Aid in the Nation's War Program*. It will contain, in addition to material dealing with extension and intensification of P.T.A. activities already in progress, new material to give guidance to our members, who are now playing an increasingly important role in the nation's war effort. The handbook will be ready for distribution to local presidents on December 1.

The members of the War Emergency Committee are:

Mrs. Emmet C. Stopher, Chairman, Mrs. Charles D. Center, Howard V. Funk, Mrs. Paul H. Leonard, Mrs. James K. Lytle, Dr. Alice Sowers, and Mrs. William Kletzer, ex officio.

A TASK FOR MEN, TOO

LATELY there has been a heartening decrease in the frequency with which one hears the parent-teacher association referred to as "a woman's organization." The enormous increase in membership, including thousands of men, has done much to correct this, and the fine service performed by men in the P.T.A. has done more.

Since our country declared war, the responsibilities of parenthood have taken on a heightened importance. This heightening is felt as keenly by fathers as by mothers. It is altogether natural, therefore, that fathers as well as mothers should seek those avenues of service through which they can best help both their own children and the children of others. And the stability of family life will be increased by their participation. Children who see their father and their mother joined in common enterprise have an additional bulwark against war's unrest.

Every effort, accordingly, should be made to bring into active P.T.A. membership every man who is interested in the children of America. The wartime program of the National Congress is an undertaking of sufficient magnitude to need the united power and devotion of all Americans, men as well as women. Both are needed; both have invaluable contributions to make; and both have a definite responsibility.

BOOK WEEK

November 15-21, 1942

"Forward with Books" is this year's slogan for observance of Book Week, sponsored by educators, librarians, booksellers, and publishers throughout the nation. The importance of books in winning the war on the production and home fronts, as well as on the military and naval fronts, will be highlighted.



Are you buying war bonds and stamps?

Are you helping to get in the scrap metal?

OUR *Legislative* PROGRAM FOR 1942-43

THE NUMBER of state congresses that approved each legislative subject is indicated by the numbers in parentheses following the subject.

Rules adopted by the Board of Managers of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers regarding legislation require approval of each legislative subject by 30 state congresses before an active campaign for its enactment is begun.

1. SUPPORT OF CERTAIN FEDERAL OFFICES

All Federal offices considered here are being mobilized to contribute maximum assistance toward the successful prosecution of the war. Accordingly, whatever budgets for their maintenance are recommended by the U. S. Bureau of the Budget should be vigorously sustained.

- (a) U. S. Office of Education (including a division of creative arts and a radio division), Federal Security Agency. (42)

Collects, publishes, and distributes educational statistics and information—700,000 copies of such material distributed annually.

Makes surveys, conducts conferences, administers funds for vocational education, cooperates with state departments of education to promote inter-American educational relations. In cooperation with the War, Navy, and Commerce Departments, educational programs essential to winning the war have been developed and are being offered to state departments of education on a voluntary, emergency basis for the use of high schools.

- (b) Bureau of Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture. (40)

Conducts research activities in the fields of (1) family economics, (2) foods and nutrition, (3) housing and household equipment, (4) textiles and clothing. Source of authoritative information for courses in home economics and war nutrition projects.

- (c) Children's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor. (41)

Serves as a center of information about children and the best methods of family and community care of children. Conducts studies in these fields and distributes publications embodying results of studies—more than 2,000,000 distributed annually. Administers provisions of Social Security Act dealing with maternity and child welfare matters; also administers child labor provisions of Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. On request gives advisory service on care of children, including assistance in drafting legislation affecting children. Has developed comprehensive policies regarding child labor and other questions affecting children in wartime.

- (d) Cooperative Extension Home Demonstration, U. S. Department of Agriculture. (35)

Concerns itself with better living for rural people.

- (e) U. S. Public Health Service, Federal Security Agency. (41)

War exigencies demand added emphasis on health activities with reference to venereal disease control, tuberculosis, cooperation in the states with maternal and child health work, etc.

- (f) Federal Food and Drug Administration, Federal Security Agency. (43)

Purpose according to the 1938 law is "to prohibit the movement in inter-state commerce of adulterated and misbranded foods, drugs, devices and cosmetics." Enforces, in addition to the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act of 1938, the Import Milk Act, Filled Milk Act, Tea Act, and Caustic Poison Act. Essentially a law enforcement agency; hence any crippling of its appropriations would lessen consumer protection.

- (g) Surplus Food Removal Agencies, Department of Agriculture. (New item)

Have made possible the School Lunch project and the Food Stamp plan. A law continuing until June 30, 1945, the "Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation under the direction of the Secretary of Agriculture" was enacted on June 27, 1942.

2. CHILD LABOR

- (a) Ratification by the states of the Child Labor Amendment. (40)

The decision by the Supreme Court of the United States that (1) a state may rescind former action against ratification and ratify, and (2) no time limit exists as to when states may ratify, leaves the question of ratification still open.

Twenty-eight states have already ratified the amendment. Ratification by eight additional states will furnish the thirty-six required to make the amendment a part of the Constitution of the United States. The following states have not yet ratified: Ala., Conn., Del., Fla., Ga., La., Md., Mass., Miss., Mo., Neb., N. Y., N. C., R. I., S. C., S. D., Tenn., Tex., Vt., and Va.

- (b) Such Federal legislation as will give the necessary protection to child workers, with special emphasis on the establishment of (1) a basic minimum age of 16 for employment; (2) a higher minimum age for employment in hazardous occupations; and (3) a minimum wage provision for minors. (30)

These provisions are a part of the Fair Labor Standards Act (Wage and Hour Law) but are retained on the legislative program because during the past year concerted efforts have been made to tear down child labor standards. Ask Children's Bureau for War Policies regarding child labor.

3. FEDERAL AID FOR EDUCATION :

- (a) Federal funds to equalize educational opportunity among the several states, including provisions insuring (1) distribution according to need, such need to be determined on the basis of established facts, which shall serve as the foundation for a specific formula for apportionment; (2) maximum local and minimum Federal control; and (3) encouragement for maximum effort by states to equalize educational opportunity within their own boundaries. This includes funds for libraries and for education of handicapped children. (38)

The annual per capita cost of education varies from \$24.48 in Mississippi to \$135.16 in New York. It is to equalize these inequalities that Federal aid is sought. A new bill, the Thomas Federal Aid Bill (S. 1313, Report No. 1548), which conforms to the principles endorsed by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, was reported to the United States Senate on July 16, 1942.

- (b) Federal funds to give aid in construction of school buildings after competent, approved surveys. (33)

Funds are now available under the Lanham "Community Facilities Act" for buildings in defense areas.

- (c) Federal funds to provide educational opportunities for children of Government employees on federally owned property. (31)

This has long been an unsolved problem, as local taxpayers cannot legitimately be required to defray the expense of educating the children of nontaxpaying Federal employees on nearby Federal reservations. War conditions make this problem more acute.

4. VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

- Increased control of vocational education by state departments of education to facilitate the integration of vocational education with general education. (27)

For many years the Federal Government allocated funds for vocational education to the states on a matching basis. Administration of these funds was controlled by the Federal Board for Vocational Education, which is entirely separate from the United States Office of Education.

About seven years ago the administration of vocational education was placed in the United States Office of Education. Studies made about that time of the administration of vocational education in some of the states revealed abuses that caused the President's Advisory Committee on Federal Aid for Education to recommend that the administration of vocational education be placed with state departments of education.

5. EMERGENCY AID FOR "COMMUNITY FACILITIES"

● Inclusion with respect to further appropriations for "community facilities" of provision that the *determination of need* for educational, health, or other technical facilities be established by the Federal agencies best qualified in these respective fields and that funds be earmarked for the use of each such agency to render this service. (13)

A bill, H.R. 4545, originating with the House Committee on Buildings and Grounds and authorizing an appropriation of \$150,000,000 to provide "community facilities" in defense areas where populations have expanded phenomenally, was passed on June 28, 1941. The provisions of this act place its administration with the Federal Works Agency. An appropriation to meet the amount authorized by the Act was made in the "Second Deficiency Appropriation Act of 1941." Additional sums have been appropriated from time to time as needs arose.

6. LOCAL CONTROL

● In all Federal child welfare legislation, inclusion of provisions that will insure maximum local control is supported. (32)

Many Federal laws dealing with agriculture, social security, and interstate commerce include provisions regarding child labor or other child welfare provisions. Such provisions should be carefully examined to see that the wording insures maximum local control, thus recognizing the principle that the child belongs to the family. When war ceases, it will be more important than ever before for parents and all who recognize the home as basic to the continuance of democratic government to scrutinize all legislation affecting children and to ask, "Where is control placed?"

7. EXTENSION OF MERIT SYSTEM FOR CIVIL EMPLOYEES, BOTH STATE AND NATIONAL (37)

● Many Federal acts providing for the allocation of Federal funds to states for social welfare purposes require that state employees who administer these funds must be "qualified." Unless this requirement is met by the states, there is danger that Federal control of such services will be increased. The importance of qualified teachers is accepted. Is it not equally important that employees administering health, juvenile protection, and other child welfare services be qualified? The alternatives are political patronage or increased Federal control.

8. ELECTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (35)

● The election of school boards is a generally accepted recognition of the democratic principle that the child belongs to the family. It constitutes the most reliable fortress against totalitarian ideologies in public education.

The Board of Education of the District of Columbia is now appointed by the District Court of the United States for the District of Columbia, which in turn is appointed by the President of the United States and confirmed by the United States Senate.

The Government of the District of Columbia is completely controlled—including its public schools—by laws enacted by the Congress of the United States.

9. MOTION PICTURES

● To abolish compulsory block booking and blind selling. (49)

More state congresses have endorsed this item than have endorsed any other on the national legislation program. The experimental operation of the block-booking, blind-selling provisions of the "Consent Decree" (the out-of-court settlement of the suit brought by the Department of Justice against the "Big Eight" motion picture producers in 1938) terminated Sept. 1, 1942.

Anticipating this and dissatisfied with the block-booking, blind-selling provisions of the Decree, a group of exhibitors and representatives of the five producers who signed the Consent Decree proposed an amendment to the Decree which called for selling in blocks of thirteen, only a part of which would be "trade-shown." When this amendment was laid before the Anti-Trust Division of the Department of Justice for approval, the head of that Division rendered (in part) the following opinion:

"The Department has decided that it cannot consent to the proposed amendment to the decree, for the following reasons:

"(1) Experience under the decree has persuaded the Anti-Trust Division that trade showing of motion pictures before their sale is desirable. Such trade showing tends to encourage the production of better features and thus confers a substantial benefit on the public.

"(2) There are now trade-shown or ready for trade showing approximately 100 of the features which the consenting defendants will release during the 1942-43 season. Competitive practices should lead these distributors to trade show these completed pictures rather than sell them blind, insofar as each has faith in the merit of its product.

"(3) To expressly sanction blind selling of motion pictures would be to take a position inconsistent with the position the Department took at the institution of its anti-trust proceedings."

The experimental operation of the entire Consent Decree will expire in 1943. Vigilance and continued support of this legislation is therefore highly important.

10. OPPOSE ADVERTISING OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR (41)

● A bill designed to prohibit such advertising by radio was reported favorably by the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee on April 28, 1939, and placed on the Senate Calendar. A filibuster, first by repeated roll calls to delay action, and second by adding the anti-lynching bill as an amendment, has prevented action by the 76th and 77th Congresses.

11. OPPOSE LEGALIZING A NATIONAL LOTTERY (39)

● A bill has been before the United States Congress for several years providing that the "Secretary of the Treasury, with the approval of the President, be authorized to conduct a lottery or lotteries to raise funds not exceeding \$1,000,000,000 in any one year, to be covered into the Treasury as a miscellaneous receipt."

The need to raise additional revenue for war purposes has already prompted two influential members of the House of Representatives to propose inclusion of a national lottery in the next tax bill. This bill will be introduced soon after January 1, 1943.

12. DOMESTIC CONTROL OF THE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE OPIUM POPPY AND ITS PRODUCTS IN THE U. S. (New item)

● Since war with Japan was declared, the importation of opium from the Orient for legitimate purposes has been entirely cut off. Already thousands of acres of the opium poppy have been planted in the United States with no regulation. This bill (S. 2405-H.R. 7568), proposed by the U. S. Bureau of Narcotics, is designed so to regulate planting of the opium poppy as to restrict its use to legitimate purposes. The bill was reported favorably by the House Ways and Means Committee on Oct. 12, 1942.

13. TO AUTHORIZE INCREASED APPROPRIATIONS FOR MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES TO MEET WARTIME NEEDS (New emergency item)

● This bill (S. 2738-H.R. 7503), recommended by President Roosevelt, is designed to augment for the duration of the war and six months thereafter the services rendered by the Children's Bureau under the Social Security Act. Due to war service and dislocation of families to meet industrial requirements, the needs for maternal and child health services have expanded phenomenally. Provision is made that the additional funds authorized be distributed among the states on a basis of need and be administered as is now being done under Title V of the Social Security Act.

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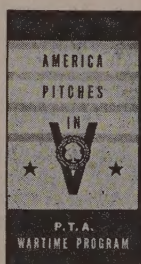
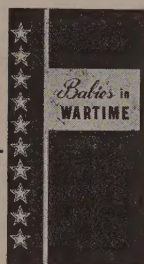
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MAKE YOUR P.T.A. MEETINGS COUNT FOR *Victory*

LONG AGO the *National Parent-Teacher*, foreseeing both the difficulties and the opportunities that would pertain to this phase of parent-teacher work in wartime, provided for its program and study course an approach and an interpretation fitted in every part to specific wartime needs. The 1942 course and program titles are highly significant: *Babies in Wartime, America Pitches In*.

To this timely material has been added a monthly program outline based on the principles of community betterment as laid down in the important new book recently published by the National Congress, *Community Life in a Democracy*. Thus the *National Parent-Teacher* today stands in a position to give practical help to every P.T.A. unit that is struggling to maintain a program worthy



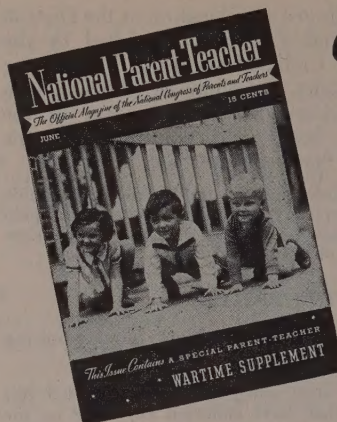
THE titles of the monthly program and study course articles are here listed, that P.T.A. leaders everywhere may mark their appropriateness for these times.

BABIES IN WARTIME includes the following articles:

1. The Young Mother Faces War
2. How War Affects the Baby's Food
3. Why Have Fears?
4. The Air Raid Shelter
5. What Clothes Are Necessary?
6. The Democratic Nursery
7. Should Children Play at War?
8. Gardens for Babies

AMERICA PITCHES IN includes:

1. The Family Takes the Job
2. What You Can Do
3. Flora McFlimsey Had Nothing to Wear
4. Foods I Have Known
5. Money Makes the Mare Go, But It Goes Too
6. A Penny Saved
7. Your Community and You
8. This New World—Is It Brave?



of its objectives in a time beset with difficulties and hindrances.

EVERY AGE GROUP COVERED

Babies in Wartime is a course for mothers of preschool children. *America Pitches In* is a program adapted to the needs of those who have growing children, especially children in elementary school. The program based on *Community Life in a Democracy* is ideal for the use of high school associations. All are thoroughly and completely implemented in every issue of the Magazine with articles, outlines, references, questions, study helps, and pertinent points for group discussion. These helps have been planned especially for parent-teacher leaders. They will greatly simplify the work of conducting the course and the programs.

YOUR LOGICAL HELPER

You turn with confidence to your *Parent-Teacher Manual* for guidance in conducting parent-teacher work. Other organizations have their manuals, but no matter how excellent they are you prefer to use your own. You know it is the only one that will best serve your purpose. The same is true of your national magazine. Other magazines and other publications may offer a variety of adult education programs and courses, but they are not published with your needs uppermost in mind. The *National Parent-Teacher Magazine* is. Like your *Parent-Teacher Manual* it is your logical helper. With the aid it has to offer, you will have no difficulty in assuming and maintaining effective leadership and in conducting successful meetings.

Carry On . . . TRIUMPHANTLY

IN SPITE OF the handicaps of wartime economy—gasoline rationing, tire rationing, speaker shortage, heavier responsibilities in every direction—your P.T.A. can carry on triumphantly its program of parent and adult education. And not only carry it on but lift it to new heights of effectiveness and significance. A well-administered program of adult education today is a vital contribution to the total war effort.

WHEN SPEAKERS CANNOT COME

If speakers cannot be obtained and the program you have planned is threatened with disruption as a result of this shortage, use the *National Parent-Teacher* to build a substitute program. Your members will not be disappointed. This is a case in which the substitute might easily equal or surpass the original.

FOR DEFENSE WORKERS

If you are in an area where defense workers are pouring in, organize a young mothers' study group in your P.T.A. Use the course *Babies in Wartime* as lesson material. Invite the mothers to come and participate. By extending to them the friendly hand of parent-teacher good fellowship, you will make them feel that they are welcome in the community. They will appreciate your evident and sincere interest in the welfare of their children.

ACT NOW

DISCUSS this page and the Magazine with the members of your executive committee. Urge them to authorize the purchase of a club of subscriptions immediately. What better contribution can your association make to ultimate victory than to place in the hands of its members material vital to the adequate nurture and wholesome development of children and young people? In ordering, be sure to request that subscriptions start with the September issue, for you will not want to miss one article. Join the thousands of other P.T.A.'s that are using the Magazine as a basis for their wartime programs. Carry on to victory with the *National Parent-Teacher*.